

A. My name is Annie F. Hedges, and I am the wife of John W. Hedges, one of the Plaintiffs in this case, and I know all the parties to this suit. I knew Gideon M. Hedges, residing in Frederick City, in Frederick County, Maryland, and who died on or about the date April 9th, 1923, and who died without leaving a will and he was unmarried, and without any child or descendants of a child, and his father and mother were both dead a number of years prior thereto. Gideon M. Hedges was about 70 years old at the time of his death. At the time of his death, Gideon M. Hedges left surviving him as his only relatives and next of kin, the following brothers and sisters; A sister, Annie P. Hedges, who is unmarried; a brother, John W. Hedges, my husband, and who is at present infirm in health, being paralyzed; a sister, Louisa Vanmeter, the widow of Newton Vanmeter; a sister Ella R. Buxton, who is the wife of William L. Buxton. He also left a nephew, John H. Staley, who is the only child of Mary J. Hedges, who was married to Fleete E. Staley, and she is now dead and who died without a will, about the year 1887. Gideon M. Hedges also left John Hedges, who is married to Belle Hedges, and Oscar P. Hedges, who is married to Idella C. Hedges, and they are nephews, being the children of Isaac Hedges, who was a brother of said Gideon M. Hedges, and said Isaac Hedges having died without a will at Baltimore, Maryland, on or about the date July 11th, in the year 1922, and said Gideon M. Hedges left a niece named Minnie M. Allen, who is the only child of James P. Hedges, who was a brother of Gideon M. Hedges, and the said James P. Hedges died intestate a number of years ago. All of the aforementioned parties and all of the Plaintiffs of this case are adults over 21 years of age. The said Gideon M. Hedges, also left a grandnephew named Elmer Berriker, who is an infant about eight years of age, and who was born in August, 1915, and the infant being the son of Anna Hedges, who was the daughter of the said Isaac Hedges, and she died intestate in the month of January, 1916, then married to Jacob Berriker, said infant residing in Baltimore County, in the State of Maryland, These are all the next of kin and heirs at law of said Gideon M. Hedges, deceased, to my knowledge and belief.

I know that Gideon M. Hedges owned the house and lot of ground on the North side of East Patrick Street, in Frederick City, in Frederick County, Maryland, where he resided at the time of his death with his sister, Annie P. Hedges, said real estate being the same which was conveyed to him by deed from Rachel V. Fout, widow, of which "Exhibit A", filed in this case and now shown me, is a correct copy I believe, and being the same property which the said Rachel V. Fout obtained by Deed from her sister, Hannah N. Wahlen, et al. which is correctly described I think in "Exhibit B", herewith exhibited to me as filed in the case.

In my opinion this property is worth about \$4000.00, as a fair market price at this time. This property is not susceptible of partition or division among the numerous persons entitled to it, without loss and injury, because it is one dwelling house and incapable of being divided in different parts, and I think it will be to the interest and advantage of all the parties entitled in the interest thereto, that the same will be sold and the net amount derived therefrom, divided among the persons entitled thereto as their respective interests may appear. And particularly now, as there is no one living in the property and as Miss Annie has removed therefrom and living in the property I think with her relatives, and there is no one to look after and take charge of the property. And, I understand it is the wish of all the parties concerned that the property be now sold for their benefit. To the general interrogatory by the Examiner; Nothing further.

Annie F. Hedges.

JOHN H. STALEY, a witness of lawful age, produced on the part of the Plaintiffs, being first duly sworn and examined viva voce, deposed and says as follows;

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

Questions by Jacob Rohrbach, Esq;:-

Q. 1 State your age, name, residence, and if you knew Gideon M. Hedges during his lifetime, when he died, his next of kin, and what real estate he was possessed of at the time of his death and whether it would be advantageous to have the same sold and divided among those entitled thereto? State the same fully and at large in your answer?